

**Artifact Title:** School Climate

**Date Experienced:** Spring Semester, 2013

**Artifact Description:**

My artifact is a school climate survey that was conducted during our relationships module. This survey was sent to staff members from four different school districts. There were 22 questions asked in four different categories; safety, teaching and learning, interpersonal relationships, and institutional environment. The survey was analyzed and modifications were proposed during a mock board presentation.

**Wisconsin Administrator Standard Alignment:**

This artifact best aligns with Administrative Standard 3 **School Climate**: *A school administrator is an educational leader who promotes the success of all students by advocating, nurturing, and sustaining a school culture and instructional program conducive to student learning and staff professional growth.*

This experience best aligns with Administrative Standard 3 because it demonstrates ability to analyze principles of effective instruction and school culture. The survey allowed the educator an opportunity to receive feedback from staff members of all levels to get a sense for school climate. The responses from this survey gave an opportunity to analyze real data and then prepare solutions for the problems that were identified.

This survey demonstrates competency in this standard because it requires the educator to assess school culture and climate and to show high expectations for self, student, and staff performance. It is very important as an administrator to make informed decisions about all aspects of the school, but especially about the culture and climate. By conducting a climate survey, the prospective administrator was able to attain valuable information about how well the school operates while also showing the importance of continuous improvement. This survey gave teachers the ability to inform the administration and recommend ways to enhance the expectations of the district.

**What I learned about teaching/learning from this experience:**

I have learned that it is important to understand how your stakeholders feel about their district, classroom, or organization. One way to get input is through a survey. By asking the right questions, I learned that I can get a feel for what people really think. This information is invaluable because it gives immediate feedback and also direction. If questions are posed correctly, they can give wonderful insight into how members feel for the success of the group.

**What I learned about myself as a prospective administrator as a result of this experience/artifact:**

As a teacher, I learned that there are many ways to measure climate and use the information, especially from a survey. As an aspiring administrator, I see similarities between how the data could be used to inform decisions in a classroom and in a whole school. As a teacher it is important to control and improve the climate of your classroom, likewise as a principal, it is also extremely important to control and improve the climate of the school. The use of the survey was very enlightening because it provided a snapshot of our “mock” high school and pointed us in a direction where we could formulate a plan for improvements. A few directed questions can really help define problems that are occurring within the school. The use of a survey can be very useful in improving the quality of a school in all facets. It also shows that elements of school climate are assessed on a regular basis and show staff within the district that they are an important part of decision making process.